

(Washington, D.C.) – U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) and U.S. Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) today met with the CEO of KBR Inc., William Utt, in Washington, D.C. to ask about the systemic problem of faulty wiring at military facilities in Iraq and what is being done to prevent further harm to our troops.

Congressman Altmire has been pressing the U.S. Department of Defense to release information on the prevalence of electrocution deaths of Americans serving in Iraq since being contacted by Cheryl Harris, a Shaler resident whose son, Staff Sergeant Ryan Maseth, was fatally electrocuted in Iraq while taking a shower on his base on January 2, 2008. A letter sent by Congressman Altmire to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates on February 19 resulted in the initiation of a full investigation by the Department of Defense Inspector General. Congressman Altmire has also brought this problem to the attention of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has since launched a comprehensive investigation into the matter. The committee is planning to hold a hearing on July 30.

**“Today’s meeting with KBR’s CEO, William Utt, was a significant step forward in the ongoing effort to determine who is responsible for the electrocution deaths of at least 16 Americans serving in Iraq, including SSG Ryan Maseth. I will continue working to ensure that those who are responsible for these deaths are held accountable and that all necessary steps are taken to make sure this tragedy never happens again.”**